

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

United States Patent and Trademark
Office
(Box PCT)
Crystal Plaza 2
Washington, DC 20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

02 February 1999 (02.02.99)

International application No.

PCT/CA98/00559

Applicant's or agent's file reference

24169

International filing date (day/month/year)

09 June 1998 (09.06.98)

Priority date (day/month/year)

09 June 1997 (09.06.97)

Applicant

LEMIEUX, Alain

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:



in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

08 January 1999 (08.01.99)



in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

S. Cruz

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : E01C 13/08	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/56993 (43) International Publication Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98)
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA98/00559

(22) International Filing Date: 9 June 1998 (09.06.98)

(30) Priority Data:
2,206,295 9 June 1997 (09.06.97) CA(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): 2752-3273
QUEBEC INC. [CA/CA]; Suite 2900, 1000 de la
Gauchetiere, Montreal, Quebec H3B 4W5 (CA).

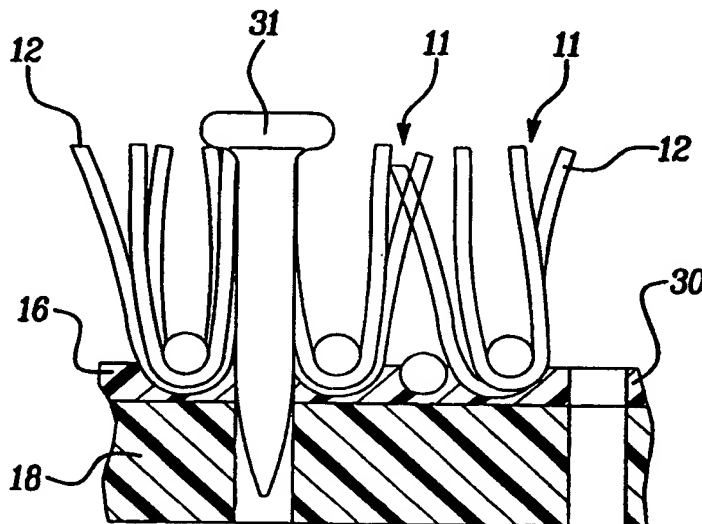
(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): LEMIEUX, Alain [CA/CA];
1360 Cherbourg Street, Sherbrooke, Quebec J1K 2P2 (CA).(74) Agent: MacRAE & CO.; P.O. Box 806, Station "B", Ottawa,
Ontario K1P 5T4 (CA).(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR,
BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE,
GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ,
LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL,
TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO
patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR,
IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF,
CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**Published***With international search report.*

(54) Title: SYNTHETIC TURF GAME SURFACE

(57) Abstract

A synthetic turf surface for golf courses, tennis courts and other grass-surfaced game playing fields is formed of a synthetic grass carpet having a flexible base sheet (14) with closely spaced-apart upright, blade-like strands (12) of plastic material forming a dense grass-like surface. The carpet is supported upon a cushioning underpad (18) which is formed of a thick, molded sheet of open cell, expanded bead polypropylene. The resiliently compressible polypropylene underpad combined with the synthetic grass carpet closely simulates the feel of a natural grass covered playing surface.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 24169	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/CA 98/ 00559	International filing date (day/month/year) 09/06/1998	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 09/06/1997
Applicant 2752-3273 QUEBEC INC. et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box I).

2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing** and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing

☐ filed with the international application.

☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,

☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.

☐ Transcribed by this Authority

4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International Search Report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:

Figure No. 9 ☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ None of the figures.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CA 98/00559

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A synthetic turf surface for golf courses, tennis courts and other grass-surfaced game playing fields is formed of a synthetic grass carpet having a flexible base sheet (14) with closely spaced-apart upright, blade-like strands (12) of plastic material forming a dense grass-like surface. The carpet is supported upon a cushioning underpad (18) which is formed of a thick, molded sheet of open cell, expanded bead polypropylene. The resiliently compressible polypropylene underpad combined with the synthetic grass carpet closely simulates the feel of a natural grass covered playing surface.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 E01C13/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 E01C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 505 960 A (LEFFINGWELL JAMES W) 19 March 1985 cited in the application see column 4, line 40 - line 46 see abstract ---	1
A	US 4 830 798 A (MAEDA HIROFUMI) 16 May 1989 see abstract ---	1
A	US 5 373 667 A (LEMIEUX ALAIN) 20 December 1994 see abstract -----	9



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 August 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/09/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Dijkstra, G

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CA 98/00559

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4505960	A	19-03-1985	AU 564195 B	06-08-1987
			AU 3181284 A	14-02-1985
			CA 1229854 A	01-12-1987
			EP 0168545 A	22-01-1986
			JP 1731938 C	17-02-1993
			JP 4021582 B	10-04-1992
			JP 60071246 A	23-04-1985
<hr/>				
US 4830798	A	16-05-1989	CA 1274662 A	02-10-1990
			DE 3777317 A	16-04-1992
			DK 483687 A	17-03-1988
			EP 0263989 A	20-04-1988
			FI 874016 A, B,	17-03-1988
			JP 8300387 A	19-11-1996
			JP 6059694 B	10-08-1994
			JP 63183832 A	29-07-1988
			KR 9510982 B	26-09-1995
			NO 175065 B	16-05-1994
<hr/>				
US 5373667	A	20-12-1994	US 5356344 A	18-10-1994
<hr/>				

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REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) 7218-002/POA

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION
SYNTHETIC TURF GAME SURFACE

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

2752-3273 Quebec Inc.
1000 de la Gauchetiere - Suite 2900
Montreal, Quebec
H3B 4W5
CANADA

☐ This person is also inventor.

Telephone No.
514-878-3249

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

State (i.e. country) of nationality:
Canada

State (i.e. country) of residence:
Canada

This person is applicant for the purposes of: ☐ all designated States ☒ all designated States except the United States of America ☐ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

LEMIEUX, Alain
1360 Cherbourg Street
Sherbrooke, Quebec
J1K 2P2
CANADA

This person is:

☐ applicant only

☒ applicant and inventor

☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (i.e. country) of nationality:
Canada

State (i.e. country) of residence:
Canada

This person is applicant for the purposes of: ☐ all designated States ☐ all designated States except the United States of America ☒ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

☐ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:

☒ agent ☐ common representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

MacRae & Co.
P.O. Box 806, Station "B"
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5T4
CANADA

Telephone No.
(819) 770-8842

Facsimile No.
(819) 770-8847

Teleprinter No.

☐ Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Box No.V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) (mark the applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked):

Regional Patent

- ☒ **AP ARIPO Patent:** GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SZ Swaziland, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT
- ☒ **EA Eurasian Patent:** AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **EP European Patent:** AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **OA OAPI Patent:** BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AL Albania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT Austria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AU Australia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Norway |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL Poland |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO Romania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES Spain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI Finland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SI Slovenia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SL Sierra Leone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GH Ghana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Gambia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GW Guinea-Bissau | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID Indonesia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL Israel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Japan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YU Yugoslavia |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZW Zimbabwe |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakhstan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho | |

Check-boxes reserved for designating States (for the purposes of a national patent) which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all designations which would be permitted under the PCT except the designation(s) of
 applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and the payment of the designation and confirmation fees. Confirmation must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIMFurther priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box ☐

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Country (in which, or for which, the application was filed)	Filing Date (day/month/year)	Application No.	Office of filing (only for regional or international application)
item (1) Canada	9 June 1997 (09-06-97)	2,206,295	Canada
item (2)	()		
item (3)	()		

Mark the following check-box if the certified copy of the earlier application is to be issued by the Office which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office (a fee may be required):

☒ The receiving Office is hereby requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) identified above as item(s):

1

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITYChoice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used): ISA/EP

Earlier search Fill in where a search (international, international-type or other) by the International Searching Authority has already been out or requested and the Authority is now requested to base the international search, to the extent possible, on the results of that earlier search. Such search or request either by reference to the relevant application (or the translation thereof) or by reference to the search request:

Country (or regional Office):

Date (day/month/year):

Number:

Box No. VIII CHECK LIST

This international application contains the following number of sheets:

1. request : 3 sheets
 2. description : 7 sheets
 3. claims : 2 sheets
 4. abstract : 1 sheets
 5. drawings : 2 sheets

Total : 15 sheets

This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

1. ☒ separate signed power of attorney
 2. ☐ copy of general power of attorney
 3. ☐ statement explaining lack of signature
 4. ☐ priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):
 5. ☒ fee calculation sheet
 6. ☐ separate indications concerning deposited microorganisms
 7. ☐ nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing (diskette)
 8. ☐ other (specify):

Figure No. 9 of the drawings (if any) should accompany the abstract when it is published.**Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT**

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

2752-3273 Quebec Inc.
Alain Lemieux

BY:

H. Wayne Rock, Partner
MacRae & Co.

For receiving Office use only		2. Drawings: <input type="checkbox"/> received: <input type="checkbox"/> not received:
1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:		
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:		
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):		
5. International Searching Authority specified by the applicant: <u>ISA/</u>	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

Date of receipt of the record copy
by the International Bureau:

For International Bureau use only

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 24169	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/CA98/00559	International filing date (day/month/year) 09/06/1998	Priority date (day/month/year) 09/06/1997
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E01C13/08		
Applicant 2752-3273 QUEBEC INC. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08/01/1999	Date of completion of this report 07.05.99
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer Cleuziou, Y Telephone No. (+49-89) 2399 2492 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA98/00559

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-7 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-11 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/CA98/00559

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-11
	No: Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 1-11
	No: Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-11
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/CA98/00559

1. Several documents cited in the description (see for example US-A-4 389 435 (D1)) or in the search report (see for example US-A 4 505 960 (D2) or US-A-5 373 667 (D3)) disclose the features of the first part of claim 1.

Moreover, some documents (see for example US-A-4 505 960 (D2) or US-A-5 373 667 (D3)) disclose an underpad made of polypropylene.

All these documents cite a golf course surface as application of the synthetic golf surface.

Consequently all these features could be considered as being generally known.

2. The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this state of the art in that the polypropylene used for the underpad is in the form of bead.
3. Polypropylene bead are well known (cf. US-A-4 830 798 (D4) but there is no hint in the numerous cited documents for using polypropylene bead material in combination with an artificial grass carpet as a game playing field. The use of bead for the underpad improve the feeling of playing on natural grass, which is particularly adapted for golf courses.

Consequently the subject matter of claim 1 is new and inventive (art. 33(2) and (3) PCT).

4. Claims 2-11 are dependent claims of claim 1 and are also new and inventive.
5. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

The units used in the description and in the claims are not additionally expressed in terms of the units stipulated by Rule 10.1(a) and (b) PCT. Some unit appear not to be recognized in international practice, which is contrary to the requirements of Rule 10.1(d) PCT.